Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 EA-09 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-15 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 STR-04 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 /134 W

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R 011815Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5776

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

UNCLAS LONDON 10982

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, EGEN, PINT, PGOV, UK

SUBJECT: BRITAIN AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY: THE DEBATE

CONTINUES

REF: LONDON 10847

1. SUMMARY. A NEW GALLOP POLL SHOWS CONSIDERABLE DISAFFECTION WITH THE COMMUNITY, BUT PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN SAYS THERE IS NO PRACTICAL PROSPECT OF BRITAIN LEAV-UNCLASSIFIED

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ING THE COMMUNITY. END SUMMARY.

2. A GALLOP POLL WHOSE RESULTS WERE PRESENTED ON BBC TV THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 30, FOUND THAT 47 PERCENT OF THE SAMPLE (947 ADULTS THROUGHOUT BRITAIN) SAID THAT IF THERE WERE AN IMMEDIATE VOTE, THEY WOULD FAVOR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. THIRTY-EIGHT PERCENT WERE

AGAINST WITHDRAWAL; 15 PERCENT DIDN'T KNOW. THERE WAS A DIFFERENT RESULT AMONG THOSE WHO VOTED IN THE 1975 REFERENDUM: 43 PERCENT FOR WITHDRAWAL; 47 PERCENT AGAINST; AND 10 PERCENT UNCERTAIN. IN THE REFERENDUM ITSELF, 63 PERCENT OF THE SAME GROUP HAD VOTED IN FAVOR AND 37 PERCENT AGAIN THE EC, A PROPORTION VERY MUCH LIKE THE 67.5 PERCENT - 32.5 PERCENT SPLIT IN THE TOTAL VOTE.

3. DURING OUESTION TIME IN THE COMMONS ON JUNE 30 A CONSERVATIVE MP ASKED PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN WHETHER HE DIDN'T REGRET THAT THE SIX MONTHS OF THE PRESIDENCY HAD BEEN CHARACTERIZED LESS BY BRITISH INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS AND MORE BY A RESURGENCY OF ANTI-EUROPEAN FEELING IN HIS OWN PARTY. CALLAGHAN, AFTER DEFENDING BRITAIN'S PRESIDENCY, SAID REGARDING "A RESURGENCY OF ANTI-EUROPEAN FEELING OR ANTI-COMMON MARKET FEELING, SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES ARE REFLECTING A FEELING IN THE COUNTRY OF EXASPERATION ABOUT CONDITIONS GENERALLY WHICH THEY ARE WRONGLY RELATING TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. AS THERE IS NO PRACTICAL PROSPECT OF US LEAVING THE COMMUNITY, IT IS BETTER THAT WE SHOULD CONFINE OUR EFFORTS AND DIRECT THEM TO REFORMING THE THINGS ABOUT IT THAT DO NOT SUIT BRITISH CONVENIENCE. OF THESE THE AGRICULTURAL POLICY IS CERTAINLY ONE."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

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Subject: BRITAIN AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY: THE DEBATE CONTINUES

TAGS: EGEN, PINT, PGOV, UK, EEC

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